

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: May 12, 2000

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on May 5, 2000

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Francis X. Lyons
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Response, Marathon Ashland Pipeline Spill, St. Anne, Illinois

On April 21, 2000, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Peter Guria received notification of a 16-inch pipeline failure in Kankakee County, Illinois and mobilized to the scene, where he met with representatives from the Marathon Ashland Petroleum Company. A pipeline check valve gasket had failed and released approximately 100 barrels (420 gallons) of gasoline into the surrounding soil and a nearby drainage ditch. Fortunately, two underflow dams were previously installed in the ditch, preventing the gasoline from reaching the creek which leads to the Kankakee River (approximately two miles away). Marathon Ashland had a response contractor onsite utilizing vacuum trucks and absorbent boom to collect the gasoline contained by the underflow dams. Another response contractor was making repairs to the check valve. OSC Peter Guria traced the drainage ditch and unnamed creek and advised Marathon Ashland of additional locations to install containment boom for protection of the creek and River should any material get past the last underflow dam collection point. All contaminated soil excavated from repair of the check valve

was contained in a roll-off box for disposal at a later date. Marathon Ashland personnel stated that at the completion of the cleanup, the areas surrounding the underflow dams would be thoroughly cleaned, and the dams re-installed. The OSC was satisfied with Marathon Ashland's quick response to the spill, and the company's foresight into installing the underflow dams, which proved to be effective in preventing the gasoline from entering the Kankakee River.

Contact: Peter Guria (312-886-1909)

Response, Mercury Release, Columbiaville, Michigan

On April 28, 2000, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Buckley responded, with Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START) support, to a report of a mercury release in a private residence in Columbiaville, Lapeer County, Michigan. A young child had broken a medical thermometer. The resident retrieved the parts and called Poison Control. Scanning with a Jerome Hg analyzer showed no detectable mercury vapors. Because of the young age of the children, confirmatory analyses by Anasorb tubes were run with no detectable mercury present in the living or sleeping areas. The Lapeer County Health Department arranged for disposal of the broken thermometer and the Michigan Department of Community Health provided information and guidance to the resident about health effects.

Contact: Robert Buckley (734-692-7662)

Removal Action Completed, Sauget & County Landfill (Site Q) Site, Cahokia, Illinois

During the week of April 17, 2000, removal activities at the Sauget & County Landfill (Site Q) site (also known as the Site Q Landfill part of the Sauget Area 2 site), in Cahokia, Illinois were completed. This fund-lead removal action began in late October 1999, and resulted in the excavation and removal of 3,271 buried drums and 17,000 tons of contaminated soil. The majority of the contaminated soil along with the contents of the drums were treated onsite using a lead fixation procedure and then shipped via rail to a polychlorinated biphenyl-approved Toxic Substances Control Act landfill in Oklahoma. This removal action was taken to address immediate risks to human health and a sensitive

ecosystem located within two ponds used by local residents for fishing and other recreational activities. The Site Q landfill is also located on the east bank of the Mississippi River and is often inundated with flood waters. Reports from former waste haulers in the area indicate that many more drums are located within the remainder of the Site Q landfill not covered by this removal action. The volume of drums

will be determined as part of an upcoming remedial investigation later this year.

Contacts: Kevin Turner (312-886-4444)
Mike McAteer (312-886-4663)

Response Update, Newport Mercury, Newport, Michigan

On April 17, 2000, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) P.C. Lall responded to mercury releases at a middle school, on school buses, and in at least one house, in Newport, Michigan. All the schools in the Jefferson School District have been tested for mercury contamination. Several buildings have been cleaned by a contractor hired by the school system. At least three buses were impacted and are still being cleaned. A public meeting was held jointly on May 3, 2000, by U.S. EPA, school officials, the Michigan Department of Community Health, and Monroe County Health Officials. The homeowners of the contaminated house were ordered to vacate by the Monroe County Health official (they have not yet agreed to sign an access agreement so that a cleanup can be conducted).

Contacts: P.C. Lall (734-692-7685)
Ginny Narsete (312-886-4359)

Site Inspection, Albion-Sheridan Township Landfill Superfund Site, Albion, Michigan

On April 18, 2000, an inspection regarding completion of interim remedial action took place for the Albion-Sheridan Township Landfill Superfund site in Albion, Michigan. Representatives from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and the U.S. EPA were present. A number of deficiencies regarding interim remedial action completion were noted and sent out in a comment letter on April 20, 2000.

Remedial action requirements under the 1995 Record of Decision

and the 1999 remedial action consent decree at the site include: removal of hazardous and liquid waste drums from the site; construction of a solid waste landfill cover, including a flexible membrane liner and gas collection; installation of a groundwater monitoring system, incorporating natural attenuation for arsenic; and institutional controls.

Contact: Jeff Gore (312-886-6552)

Site Assessment, John Mercer Property Site, Alexandria, Ohio

On May 1 and 2, 2000, a site assessment was conducted at the John Mercer Property site in Alexandria, St. Albans Township, Licking County, Ohio. The site consists of approximately 200 drums which were dumped in an intermittent stream/ravine in the early 1970s. Interviews conducted by the Ohio EPA and U.S. EPA indicate that the drums were brought to the property by John Mercer (the landowner) from Hanna Chemical Coatings, Columbus, Ohio. Hanna Chemical Coatings has since been purchased by AKZO Nobel Coatings and John Mercer has passed away. Two representatives of AKZO Nobel Coatings were present for part of the site assessment. They departed the site after documenting the address of their Columbus, Ohio, facility on one of the drums. Samples collected during the site assessment included resins, paint residues, and solvents. Enforcement is ongoing.

Contact: Karla Auker (440-250-1741)

Meeting (State Request for Remediation), Lakeside Refining Company, Kalamazoo, Michigan

On April 27, 2000, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Robert Buckley met with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Plainwell District Office, in Kalamazoo, Michigan. MDEQ had conducted remedial activities after the Emergency Response Branch conducted removal actions at the Lakeside Refining Company in Kalamazoo. MDEQ had removed some oil from an abandoned 6-inch pipeline which was used by the refinery. The pipeline follows a zig-zag course for about 20 miles, in some cases in railroad right-of-way, some sections in road right-of-way, and in other cases, across farm fields. There are numerous water course crossings, as well as road and

railroad crossings. As much as 150,000 gallons could be stored in the pipeline, if full. Reportedly a "pig" (device used to clean out pipes) is stuck in one segment. MDEQ is asking U.S. EPA to conduct remediation activities to preclude future release of oil to surface waters and the ground.

Contact: Robert Buckley (734-692-7662)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Proposals, U.S. EPA Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

On April 18-19, 2000, Region 5 Brownfields staff provided a briefing to U.S. EPA Senior Management concerning the Region's next round of Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (BCRLF) applications. Nationally, there were 31 BCRLF pilot applications forwarded to Senior Management for consideration. Announcement of BCRLF pilot recipients is expected in May 2000.

Contact: Alan Baumann (312-886-3058)

Review, Tribal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act Emergency Response Plan, Leech Lake Indian Reservation, Minnesota

On May 1, 2000, Glenn Cekus, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (OCEPP), completed review and comment on the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know (EPCRA) Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) completed by the Leech Lake Indian Reservation. This was the first tribal EOP submitted to OCEPP by any reservation in U.S. EPA Region 5 in Fiscal Year 2000. Overall, the plan, which used a Minnesota Small City Prototype Plan as a guide, was well written and substantially met the planning requirements of EPCRA Section 303. Detailed comments regarding areas needing additional information were provided to the Reservation.

Contact: Glenn Cekus (312-353-6449)

Status Meeting, Hennepin County and the Great Lakes Finance Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota

On April 13, 2000, Brooke Furio from the Brownfields and Early Action Section, along with representatives from the Great Lakes Environmental Finance Center met with Hennepin County to discuss the status of the County's Brownfields Cleanup and Revolving Loan Fund (BCRLF) Pilot. The Pilot was awarded the BCRLF in September of 1999.

Contact: Brooke Furio (312-353-2513)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Geophysical Training, National Park Service, Tucson, Arizona

During the week of April 24-28, 2000, Mark Vendl of the Field Services Section was an instructor at the National Park Service course on Recent Advances in Geophysics for Archeology at the Western Archeological and Conservation Center, Tucson, Arizona. Geophysical surveys were conducted at Fort Lowell, a cavalry fort on the outskirts of Tucson from 1873 to 1891, and at Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, a Hohokam Indian village near Coolidge, Arizona. Students came from as far as Portugal to attend this course. Geophysical techniques used to investigate Superfund sites are also used in archeological and cultural resource investigations. This activity promoted the transfer of information between the environmental and cultural resource management organizations.

As a reminder, the U.S. EPA Introduction to Environmental Geophysics course will be taught at the Superfund warehouse in Willowbrook, Illinois, on July 25-28, 2000.

Contact: Mark Vendl (312-886-0405)

Ohio State University Geophysics Field Class, Palos Hills, Illinois

On May 4-5, 2000, as part of the cooperative agreement between Ohio State University (OSU) and Region 5, Dr. Jefferey J. Daniels of OSU along with James Ursic and Mark Vendl of the Field Services Section conducted a two-day field exercise in geophysical techniques. The exercise took place at Region 5's geophysical test site at Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Hills, Illinois. This is the same site which is used for U.S. EPA's Introduction to Environmental Geophysics course which is offered several times a year.

The nine students who participated in this exercise were part of a graduate level geophysics class at OSU. Students collected data sets using ground penetrating radar, resistivity, time-domain and frequency-domain electromagnetics, and magnetometry to locate the buried drums and pipes at the test site. As part of the exercise, students will process and interpret the data and prepare a final report.

Plans are in the works to make this a formal yearly class open to students from other universities in the Midwest, and to provide

university and continuing education credits.

Contacts: Mark Vendl (312-886-0405)
Jim Ursic (312-353-1526)

Guest Lecturer (Environmental Science Course), Prairie State Community College, Chicago Heights, Illinois

On Monday, April 24, 2000, John Elkmann of the Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (OCEPP) was guest lecturer for an Environmental Science course taught by Superfund's Oliver Warnsley. The course is offered at Prairie State Community College. Twenty students were in attendance. The students were introduced to the CAMEO chemical database and to the program's use as an emergency planning and response software. Landview (geographic information system software) was demonstrated with emphasis on its use to determine the proximity of U.S. EPA regulated sites and as a tool in Environmental Justice decision making.

Contact: John Elkmann (312-353-8196)

**Participation (Ammonia Refrigeration System Safety Course),
University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin**

On April 19, 2000, Silvia Palomo, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention, participated in the Ammonia Refrigeration System Safety Course offered by the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin. Ms. Palomo conducted a session on the Risk Management Program (RMP) Regulations under the Clean Air Act Section 112(r). The purpose of the course was to discuss all aspects of safety in ammonia refrigeration (from regulations to safety scenarios). Ms. Palomo's presentation included an overview of the regulations; exercises on hazard analysis, including worst-case and alternative release scenario analysis; and, an overview on the number of Risk Management Plans submitted in Region 5. In addition, she provided an overview of the accident history data of all the plans submitted to U.S. EPA by the ammonia refrigeration industry, including a discussion on the causes of the accidents. Anhydrous ammonia is the most commonly reported substance in the risk management plans. Representatives from Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; Occupational Safety and Health Act; and, the ammonia refrigeration industry attended this course.

Contact: Silvia Palomo (312-353-2172)

**Clean Air/Brownfields Partnership Pilot National Meeting,
Chicago, Illinois**

On March 23-24, 2000, the City of Chicago hosted a National meeting of the three Clean Air/Brownfields Partnership Pilots (Chicago, Baltimore, Dallas). The project is nearing its conclusion with reports expected on the connection between air quality regulations and brownfields redevelopment. Representatives from Chicago, Dallas, and Baltimore attended the meeting, along with U.S. EPA, Department of Transportation, the Center for Clean Air Policy, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Contact: Keary Cragan (312-353-5669)

**Meeting of Brownfields Pilots, Twin Cities Metropolitan Area,
Minnesota**

On April 14, 2000, Brooke Furio from the Brownfields and Early Action Section held a meeting with all Brownfields Pilots in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. The following organizations were in attendance: the Metropolitan Council, the Minnesota Community Development Agency, Hennepin County, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the City of Roseville. The meeting was held to share information with the Pilots on U.S. EPA's efforts to record the Pilot's successes and accomplishments in a database known as the Brownfields Management System. This meeting is part of Region 5's attempt to inform all of the Region 5 Brownfields Pilots of U.S. EPA's effort to more accurately capture their projects successes and accomplishments.

Contact: Brooke Furio (312-353-2513)

Minnesota Environmental Initiative 7th Annual Conference, St. Paul, Minnesota

On April 13, 2000, Brooke Furio from the Brownfields and Early Action Section attended the Minnesota Environmental Initiative's 7th Annual Conference at the new Science Museum of Minnesota, located in downtown St. Paul, Minnesota. Hennepin County's Bassetts Creek Valley Interim Use Committee, a U.S. EPA-funded Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot received an award for *Best Land Use and Community Development*. Hennepin County received this award for its community outreach and pollution cleanup planning effort in the Bassetts Creek Valley area of Minneapolis. Representatives from the County, along with Commissioner Mark Stenglein, of District Two were present to receive the award. The Minnesota Environmental Initiative is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that works with business, government, and advocacy groups to promote environmental excellence in policy, industrial management, land use, and energy generation use. U.S. EPA was given a lot of public credit for helping fund this project.

Contact: Brooke Furio (312-353-2513)

Meeting, Wisconsin Brownfields Study Group, Madison, Wisconsin

On April 28, 2000, Jane Neumann from the Brownfields and Early Action Section and Joanna Glowacki from Office of Regional Counsel, participated in a meeting of the Wisconsin Brownfields Study Group in Madison, Wisconsin. The multi-

Agency group is convened by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources at the behest of the State Legislature to develop recommendations for revisions to existing laws or budget initiatives to make assessment and redevelopment of brownfields easier. Ms. Neumann briefed the group on the present status of pending grant proposals and prospects for future U.S. EPA funding of brownfields activities. The liability subcommittee report included expressed concerns over the U.S. EPA's rejection of the Wisconsin Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Brownfields Pilot proposal.

Contacts: Jane Neumann (312-353-0123)
Joanna Glowacki (312-353-3757)

**Meeting, Western Lake Superior Port Area Committee (PAC),
Houghton, Michigan**

On April 14, 2000, Michelle Jaster from the Emergency Response Branch attended the Western Lake Superior Port Area Committee (PAC) meeting in Houghton, Michigan. Members of the PAC include the U.S. Coast Guard - Marine Safety Office Duluth, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan State Police, the Keewenaw Bay Indian Community, Isle Royale National Park, and numerous local government and industry representatives. The PAC members discussed ongoing changes to the SubArea Contingency Plan. In addition, Richard Garcia from the Great Lakes Commission presented an overview of the recently released draft Inland Waterways Spill Response Atlas for the SubArea. The next PAC meeting is scheduled for August 23, 2000, in Houghton.

Contact: Michelle Jaster (886-7193)

**Meeting, Metro East Brownfields Pilot, East St. Louis,
Illinois**

On April 7, 2000, the Gateway Regional Team Manager, Brownfields Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps, and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) met with the City of East St. Louis, Illinois, to discuss the Metro East Brownfields Pilot. The City Manager and Community Development Coordinators discussed proposed sites for the new work plan for the reinstated brownfields assessment pilot. The original

pilot funds were awarded to the City of East St. Louis in September 1996 and expired, mostly unspent, in December 1998. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is now managing the remaining funds through an interagency agreement with Region 5. Additionally, the Cities of East St. Louis, Illinois, and St. Louis, Missouri, recently submitted a joint letter of intent for the National Brownfields Showcase Communities competition.

Contact: Keary Cragan (312-353-5669)

Meeting, Southwestern Illinois Leadership Council, Illinois

On April 7, 2000, Region 5 and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) brownfields staff met with the East Area Development subcommittee of the Southwestern Illinois Leadership Council. Municipal representatives, developers, consultants, and community groups were present to discuss the Federal and State brownfields programs and funding opportunities. The Federal and State brownfields representatives presented information, provided written materials, and answered questions.

Contact: Keary Cragan (312-353-5669)

cc: Steve Herman (OECA)
 Barry Breen (OECA)
 Tim Fields (OSWER)
 Steve Luftig (OSWER)
 Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)
 Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators
 Division/Office Directors
 ORA State Coordinators
 Regional Team Managers